GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1173
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2005
NATIONAL GAS GRID
Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a National Gas Grid;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up;

(d) whether any other steps have been taken to improve the gas situation in the regions of the country where the availability of gas is meager; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (c): A draft Pipeline Policy which envisages the progressive development of a nation-wide gas grid in a competitive environment, involving both the public sector and the private sector, under the overview of a Regulator, is under consideration of the Government. Implementation of different pipeline segments will, inter-alia, depend upon achieving appropriate sources of supply and marketing tie-ups.

(d) & (e): To meet the current and projected shortfall in supply, Government propose to import natural gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as well as through transnational pipelines from gas rich countries in West Asia (including Iran), Central Asia and South East Asia. Government is particularly pursuing gas imports through pipelines from Iran through Pakistan and from Myanmar through Bangladesh. The negotiations for these transnational pipeline initiatives are at initial stages. PLL had signed an agreement with RasGas, Qatar in July 1999 for import of 7.5 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) of LNG. Import of 2.5 MMTPA of LNG from Qatar has already commenced. Recently, an understanding has been reached with Iran for import of 5 MMTPA of LNG with a provision for later adding 2.5 MMTPA.